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Confederate statue, contextual plaque suffer damage



PHOTOS BY: LANA FERGUSON

LEFT: The Confederate statue in the Circle is surrounded by barricades after a truck crashed into the front of it Saturday. The statue was dedicated by the citizens of the City of Oxford and Lafayette County in 1906. RIGHT: The contextualization plaque, placed there last spring, and the decorative base took the brunt of the damage. The foundational base supporting the statue's weight was not damaged, however. The university's Facilities Management team has the plaque and debris from the incident in its possession. The plaque will eventually be replaced.

LANA FERGUSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Confederate soldier statue and its contextualization plaque in the Circle suffered damage when a silver pickup truck plowed into it sometime around 10:30 p.m. Saturday. University Police Chief Tim Potts said that so far into the investigation, there is no indication that crashing the truck into the statue was intentional.

“We had people at the scene last night, and obviously, with everything going on in the nation, we want to make it abundantly clear to everybody that there’s no indication that this was intentional,” Potts said. “Due to the statue, we’ve contacted the FBI, just to make them aware of (the situation) and to make sure we are not missing any charges that could or could not be filed. We just want to

make sure we take care of all angles on this and do our due diligence and go from there.” The two people in the car sustained non-life-threatening injuries, and the driver was charged with driving while intoxicated. The investigation is still ongoing. The damage to the statue itself was mainly to the decorative base, while the foundational base supporting the weight of the statue

did not receive any of the damage. “The statue on top and everything appears to be level and firm,” Potts said. “There’s no imminent threat of the statue falling.” With the help of Facilities Management, loose articles and debris around the statue were removed. The area was cleaned up and

SEE **DAMAGE** PAGE 3

Mayor Tannehill discusses Oxford with HuffPost

RACHEL ISHEE
NEWS EDITOR

Reporters from The Huffington Post visited Oxford Friday as part of its multi-state bus tour, “Listen To America: A HuffPost Road Trip.” The road trip is focused on hearing the personal stories of citizens across the nation and to highlight the issues, concerns and hopes of Americans. The pitstop concluded with author, journalist and university professor Curtis Wilkie interviewing newly elected Mayor Robyn Tannehill at Off

Square Books. The main goal of this public forum was to highlight what works in Oxford. HuffPost’s Hillary Frey said the choice to visit Oxford was a mix of strategic and personal decision. Frey said she discussed what could be the focus of a public forum in Oxford with Square Books owner Richard Howorth. “He said, ‘You know, this place just works, and people here know how to work together and how to get things done and move things forward,’ and I have to say that it’s a real-

ly different story than what we’re hearing at a lot of places we’re going to,” Frey said. “It’s not that there’s not work to be done, as Robyn (Tannehill) shared with me, but it’s just a really cool vibe to be here and feel a place that has a sense of harmony to it and a real authentic since of diversity.” Tannehill said she loves to brag about Oxford. “That’s one of my favorite things about being mayor is that I get to kind of be the cheerleader for Oxford, and

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PHOTO BY: CHASE ROBERTS

Ole Miss professor, author and journalist Curtis Wilkie interviews Mayor Robyn Tannehill at Off Square Books on Friday.

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Virtual reality: A potential cure for PTSD



WOODY DOBSON
COLUMNIST

War never changes. The damage of war on the psychological endurance of soldiers has plagued the globe for centuries without any form of resolution.

From the beginning of WWI and onward, visible psychological stress was displayed after the unstable introduction of conventional weapons and psychological warfare. Trench warfare, accompanied by the uncertainty of death, surrounded these uneasy minds on the battlefield.

Later, scientists would discover the troublesome psychological disorder known as post-traumatic stress disorder

(PTSD) and its lack of useful treatment options. Now, in the present day, we must search for a cure.

Virtual reality (VR) has the potential to harness the emotional states of veterans after years of grueling conflicts, thus, curing emotional distress. In its in-depth replication of hyper-realistic worlds, virtual reality possesses incredible technological potential by creating surrounding and not-limiting simulated scenarios.

In fact, VR started as a gamer's dream by allowing the manipulation of any reality based on the user's personal preference. What was thought originally as a gamer's delight now brings hope to the medical world looking to satisfy the emotional needs of suffering veterans worldwide.

While VR is developing into a form of medicine, some still linger uncertainly on this futuristic view.

Due to the increasing progression of hyper-realism, pessimistic theorists view VR as an immediate and impending threat known as VR-escapism. In other words,

because of how enjoyable simulated worlds become, individuals would escape to their own preferred realities, "Matrix"-style.

Adding further, VR decreases stress from the real world by allowing for an escape to a preferred universe. Since finding a safe space is a typical human reaction to stress, is VR-escapism convenient to societal norms?

While VR is still developing, its role in healing PTSD has been reassessed during recent introduction at VR medical facilities for veterans. These facilities act as a base of operations for emotional distress simulations, where former soldiers may engage with a previous wartime event, cloning and replicating their first PTSD reaction.

Using gradual, level-by-level stress benchmarks, the patients engage with reproductions of their traumatic experiences in an effort to come to terms with them. Each time they enter the virtual world increases the probability of eradicating the overall damages induced by PTSD and possibly even completely curing

ing the trauma.

While differing stances surround VR's medical incorporation, let's analyze why medical VR is the best choice for treating and curing post-traumatic stress disorder.

Would you rather allow the continuation of dread and unending suffering for a person's entire life, or cure that person's suffering if given an immediate option?

Evaluating the effect of VR's inception in medicine is imperative to successfully resolving PTSD among veterans. And upon that evaluation, we can see that, in VR, there is a lifelong cure for PTSD that is currently available and is certainly the most stress-free.

Woody Dobson is a senior political science major from Tupelo.

CORRECTION

An article in Friday's issue of The Daily Mississippian incorrectly reported The Weeks were performing at Proud Larry's. They performed Friday night at The Lyric.

THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



MISSISSIPPI
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

MAYOR

continued from page 1

there is so much good going on here; it's a great place to tout," she said.

The first topic brought up was the lack of partisanship in the college town, which Tannehill credited as one of Oxford's best attributes.

"I really love being on a board where everybody comes at things from very different backgrounds and very different perspectives, but I think that's what helps us arrive at some very creative solutions," Tannehill said. "The truth is, Democrats and Republicans pick up trash the same way and pave roads the same way and run park commissions the same way, and you know we all have, in this small town, a whole lot more in common than we do things that divide us."

She said Oxford works because of reasons like that.

Although the discussion highlighted Oxford's successful attributes, the mayor and Wilkie both admitted there's still a need for improvement.

"Oxford has had a long history of wrestling with our Confederate symbols, our Confederate flags (and) our statues," Wilkie said. "For those not familiar with the state flag of Mississippi: in one corner it contains the stars and bars of the Confederate flag and is the only state that continues to do so."

Tannehill, who wrote the resolution two-and-a-half years ago to not fly the state flag on any city property, which passed unanimously, continues to stand by her decision.

"I think that it's time for us to have a flag that unifies us," Tannehill said. "I think that it's time for Mississippi to look toward our future."

With that being said, the mayor said her time could have possibly been better spent focusing on other aspects of the community.

"I spent an enormous amount of time on that issue and we ... hand-addressed that resolution to everyone in our

state legislature and, I might add, did not get one response."

Wilkie said there are deeper issues behind flags and statues, such as what they stand for.

"Really the truth about flags and statues ... we can move them, we can change them, we can keep them. Changing any of those things doesn't really change the situation or the tension that exists," Tannehill said. "We have to change hearts and minds to do that. I'd rather see us spending less time talking about statues and less time talking about flags and more time talking about being respectful of how everybody feels."

Wilkie said the people of Oxford need to communicate more.

"I don't think that it's any question that we all need to talk to each other more than we do ... but as someone who has lived all over the country, it's not something that is confined to Oxford, Mississippi; that problem exists everywhere," Wilkie said.

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DAMAGE

continued from page 1

barricaded off last night. Among the loose articles was the contextualization plaque placed in front of the statue last spring. Potts said the plaque and the other loose articles were taken by Facilities Management and will be maintained by it until everything can be replaced.

Pharmacy student Dana Williams was one of the on-lookers passing by on the Circle when the crashed truck was still on the scene.

She was studying in Carrier Hall and left a little after 10 p.m. when she saw the Circle was blocked off by fire trucks, ambulances and police cars.

"I had my car parked in the Circle, so I had to wait there about 10 minutes before I could get out," Williams said. "I just took a picture of what happened. I initially thought that someone was distracted and missed the turn around the Circle."

Christine Rizzi, a graduate instructor in the history department, tweeted the photo from Williams and tagged the Oxford Police Department, asking what happened.

OPD responded, saying UPD was looking into the incident. Police released some information via Twitter on Saturday night, like that the people in the vehicle were taken to the hospital for evaluation and the driver was suspected of driving under the influence.

Photos of the crash scene and, later, of the barricaded statue's damage were posted all over social me-

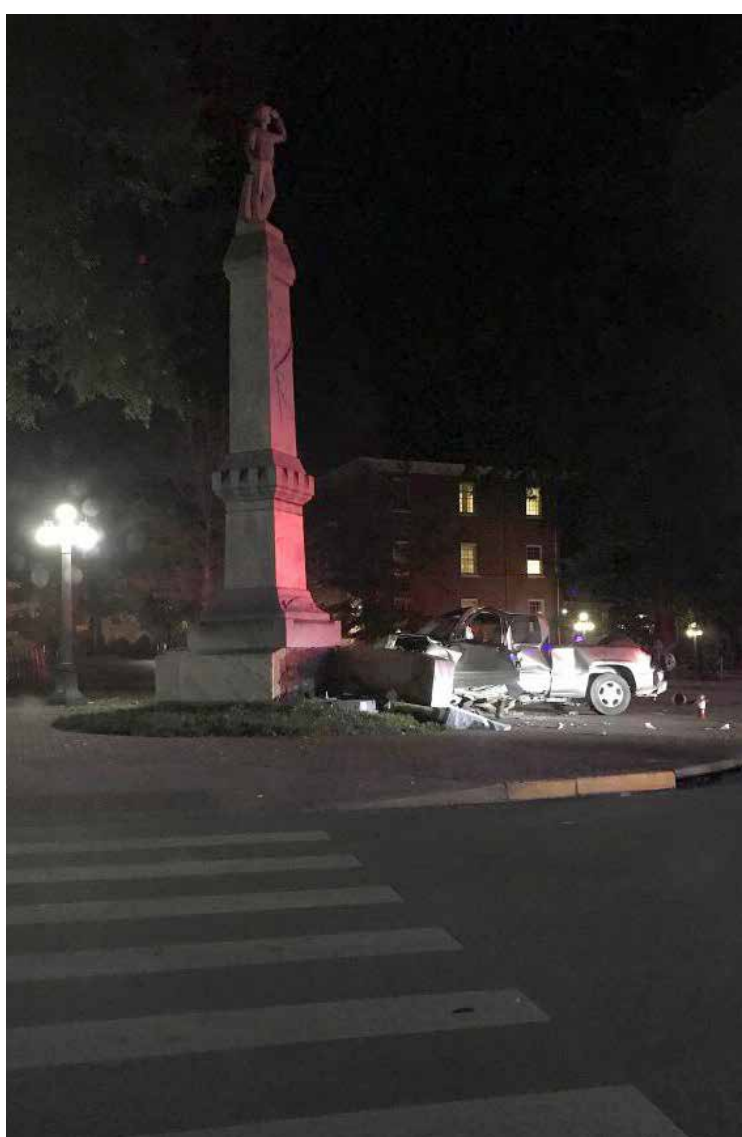


PHOTO COURTESY: DANA WILLIAMS

A silver pickup truck crashed into the Confederate monument on the Circle late Saturday night. By the end of the night, barricades were put around the monument.



@ChristineARizzi

"@OxfordPolice PLEASE give us an update on this insanity."

10:38 PM - Sep 16, 2017

dia. The plaque to the right of the statue in the photos was frequently confused for the 2016 contextualization plaque being moved after the crash. The pictured plaque beside the statue was actually erected in 2008 deeming the Circle a nation-

al historic landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Potts said the university was working on a statement about the incident last night. A UM spokesperson was unavailable for comment at the time of publication.

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The Weeks rock with Southern heart at The Lyric

JAX DALLAS
STAFF WRITER

The Square was electric Friday night with the gritty, Southern rock pouring out of The Weeks' concert at The Lyric Oxford. From the first note of the band's set, it was clear this concert would be one worth remembering. Opening with "Bottle Rocket" from their new album, "Easy," The Weeks were back in their home state, and they assured the crowd this gig would be unforgettable.

With eyes rolled back and eyelids fluttering in sync with his hands, which were lifted over his head, lead singer Cyle Barnes was a sight to be seen as he belted out, "He lived his life like a levee breakin' / Water rushin' in." It was like he was in a trance, moved by the music. It would not take long for his audience to feel the same way.

The pacing of the setlist kept the audience energized from beginning to end while ensuring no one would be tired out by the end of the show. The band alternated between fast, gut-punching songs, like "Brother in the Night" and "Bottle Rocket," and reflective songs that called back to a slow, Southern lifestyle, such as "Hands on the Radio." As song after song hit the crowd, stiff



PHOTO BY: MACKENZIE ROSS

The Weeks perform at The Lyric Oxford on Friday night.

postures loosened and people began to sway to the music in an offbeat sort of fashion.

Everything about The Weeks' performance screamed Mississippi in one way or another. Hailing from the Jackson area, The Weeks have the ability to speak to the heart of a Mississippian in ways many bands cannot. The fellowship and camaraderie Mississip-

pi likes to claim were visible during their show as Cyle and his twin brother and the band's drummer, Cain Barnes, played alongside each other during "Brother in the Night."

The twins' abilities came together with the chorus of the song, calling out, "If my Southern heart's still pumping blood / Still pumping blood / Well, I'll bury my money in the mighty

Mississippi mud," as each word was punctuated by the precise rap of a drum. In similar fashion, lead guitarist Samuel Williams and bassist Damien Bone had a lighthearted competition on stage right to see who could get the lowest to the ground while playing his instrument. Bone won.

The Weeks were not the only impressive talent of the night.

Oxonian troupe Swear Tapes opened the night with an energy on par with that of The Weeks. It would be impossible to watch the performance of Swear Tapes and not be impressed by the abilities of frontman Jim Barrett.

To call Barrett talented would be an egregious understatement. He is able to manage the intricacies of playing lead guitar while also pulling off lead vocals, excelling at every riff and falsetto without complication. Barrett shares the same intoxicating quality Cyle Barnes has when he sings. As the audience watched these two lead singers get wrapped up in the music they were making, it became impossible to resist getting sucked in with them.

It is little moments like these that bring the music to life; it's the electric look in the eyes of a passionate lead singer, the smirk shared among The Weeks' members as they prepare for the crowd favorite "Buttons," the jostle of the crowd swaying in sync and the discovery of a local gem. Most importantly, it is the homecoming of a band of Mississippians, singing to fellow Mississippians and helping them escape for a few hours with music that speaks to the heart.

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Review: 'Mother!' isn't here for your entertainment

HANNAH WILLIS
STAFF WRITER

Darren Aronofsky's newest film, "Mother!," has a lot it wants to say. The most important thing is that you stick around long enough for it to finish its sentence. Think you can make it that long? You might not, but you'll still pick up some nice nightmares along the way, all for the price of a ticket and some popcorn.

There are spoilers ahead. You probably knew that because, hey, it's a review, but to keep the emotional angst at a minimum, please know that there are, indeed, spoilers ahead.

What kind of movie is "Mother!?" A psychological thriller or a horrifying suspense? Forget the idea of this movie belonging to a genre and just prepare to be freaked out.

You'll want to look away, but you simply won't. This movie is not for the weak-of-heart, and it features scenes of true helplessness and powerlessness. Think of the anxiety you would feel being held against your will while all around you everyone acts like everything is fine and laughs while your dreams go up in flames.

"Mother!" is an allegory; everything you see on the screen represents something deeper, and none of it is very beautiful. Go in with an open mind because the parts of this movie that will stick with you the most aren't in any of the trailers. In fact, forget the trailers. In this movie, nothing is as it seems — which is kind of the point — until finally, at last, the truth comes out in a flash.

Here is the top-secret hint that might guide you along the way: Adam and Eve.

"Mother!" has a lot more to do with Genesis than you might think. Don't expect to be preached at; expect for your entire thinking to be questioned. The dark side of



PHOTO COURTESY: INDIEWIRE

humanity is brought to the forefront for the two hours you must stare at it.

"Mother!" should almost be addressed as two movies. There are two distinct parts, with the opening act building up slowly and frustratingly to the explosion and crash of the finale. To say that watching this film is exhausting is an understatement. You'll be covering your eyes while also desperately wanting to look. The failure of communication and lack of understanding among characters will make you want to scream at the screen. Strangely enough, some parts might make you laugh, but probably not for the right reasons.

The introduction of Michelle Pfeiffer and Ed Harris' characters is done in such an ill-explained and sudden manner that it was agitating to watch. For much of "Mother!," the action moves slowly uphill. The people on their phones during the movie would likely attest to the difficulty of watching it.

Jennifer Lawrence's appearance for much of the

film is almost too perfect. Her hair always manages to look thrown together ... with the help of a couple stylists. Her character is supposed to represent purity and simplicity, but it's not simple to look perfectly groomed all of the time.

The cinematic build in this film is no joke. That build, though, takes its sweet time. An hour into the film and there still didn't quite seem to be a point. None of the characters are appealing. The seemingly perfect marriage between Javier Bardem and Jennifer Lawrence's characters shows cracks from the beginning.

To sum it up, this film tells you it has something important to say, takes an hour to start talking and then shoves so much blood, pain and insanity down your throat that you're still choking as you walk out of the theater. It is not for the weak-of-heart and definitely leaves a rancid taste in your mouth long after you have left the cinema.




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Cross country sweeps Rebel Invite last Friday

GRAYSON WEIR
CO SPORTS EDITOR

The Ole Miss cross country team showed its strength on its home course with a sweep of the Rebel Invite on Friday. Hosting seven other schools, including Southern Miss, Jackson State, Rust College and William Carey, the Rebels dominated. For the second year in a row, the team ran itself to victory in both the women’s 5K and men’s 6K at FNC Park in Oxford. Following a strong third-place finish in the Memphis opener early in the month, the 16th-ranked Ole Miss women’s team was able to improve by finishing on top collectively. Individually, former Rebel Maddie McHugh took the top time of 17:05.1; however, she was running unattached, which means she ran with no affiliation. Other true Rebels Shelby Brown and Hannah Christen rounded out the top

three of the 5K, and Ole Miss claimed the top five individual spots. Head coach Ryan Vanhoy, now in his fifth season at the helm, was confident in and pleased with how the teams competed Friday. “I thought our women ran very well,” Vanhoy said. “They executed our plan to a T. The plan was to get five or six girls out together, start hard, kind of settle in and then finish hard.” Eight runners finished in under 18 minutes, and the women ran for an average time of 17:07, which is on pace with the top runners, nationally. On the men’s side of things, the No. 20 Rebels also improved between their meet at Memphis and the one Friday night. The Rebel men finished fourth in the opening meet, and although six Rebels ran the race unattached from the team for various reasons, the men in



Ryan Manahan (79) and Derek Gutierrez (77) run towards the finish line in a big lead during the men's 6K cross country race at FNC Park on Friday.

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57 Kitty starter

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59 Latin 101 word

62 Wallach or Lilly

red and blue came in first in the 6K at home. They also turned in three of the top four finishing times. “Our plan was to start hard for the first thousand, just to get used to starting fast, then settle in, then finish hard when we hit the last thousand on the field,” Vanhoy said. “We ran a lot faster than we did on the

same course last year. We need to get numbers closer to four, five, six and seven, closer to the guys who were upfront for us tonight.” Senior Derek Gutierrez crossed the line first with a time of 17:39.3. Not far behind with a time of 17:36.9 was fellow senior Ryan Manahan, who ran at Georgetown for his first two

years of college. The men ran an average of 17:57, with 11 runners finishing in under 19 minutes, though that figure includes those who ran unattached. The Rebels will be off for two weeks before they travel to Stillwater, Oklahoma, for the Cowboy Jamboree next Saturday.

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	4		3			7		8
5								
		8		7		3	2	
6		3		5				

HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

INTERMEDIATE

1	7	4	8	5	6	3	2	9
5	2	3	9	7	4	8	6	1
9	6	8	3	2	1	4	7	5
8	5	7	6	9	3	1	4	2
2	9	1	5	4	8	6	3	7
3	4	6	2	1	7	9	5	8
6	1	2	7	3	9	5	8	4
7	3	9	4	8	5	2	1	6
4	8	5	1	6	2	7	9	3

FOOTBALL

continued from page 8

to use that as an excuse.

"Sean is very important, but when he goes down, it has to be next man up," Luke said. "The same thing goes with A.J. You must get your job done. Injuries are a part of football."

The injury that most impacted the team was clearly the loss of Rawlings. Luke was forced to shuffle his offensive line, playing both Alex Givens and Javon Patterson at center. After the injury, the offensive line struggled to protect Shea, the centers found trouble getting the snap in Rawlings' place and the group collectively committed penalties that killed offensive momentum.

"Their defense played well in the second half," Shea Patterson said regarding his offense's struggle. "The defenders were bailing (in coverage), and the linebackers were sitting on everything."

The Rebels faced a trying week dealing with the COI hearing in Kentucky and traveling to California for only the second time in school history to play the Golden Bears. With the bye week ahead, Matt Luke and the Ole Miss football program look to focus on getting healthy and on execution with the Crimson Tide up next on the schedule.

"We have to rebound and get back into the flow of things," Patterson said on moving forward. "We have two weeks to prepare for the best team in the country."

Volleyball splits series with South Alabama

BILLY SCHUERMAN

STAFF WRITER

"I told the team I feel like we just played better (than last night)," head coach Steven McRoberts said after the team's four set win (25-15, 22-25, 25-19, 26-24) against South Alabama.

After falling to the Jaguars in five sets the night before, Ole Miss rebounded on Saturday with a solid four set win, largely due to tremendous play from the outside hitters. Sophomore Emily Stroup led the way and was one kill away from tying her personal best of 21.

"A lot of those kills were at big time moments, which is nice to see before we head on to SEC play," McRoberts said. "Just a monster of a match, that she can step on that stage, and it shows that she has a lot ahead of her this season."

In their Friday loss, the Rebels had multiple opportunities to put the game away with two match points late, but failed to seize the opportunity, creating fuel for the next day's win.

"Losing in five sets made me really mad," Stroup said. "It made me want to come out with my team and swing more aggressively. I knew that we needed to play together more and that we needed the win."

Stroup may have had an incredible game with 20 kills on a .432 percentage,



PHOTO BY: BILLY SCHUERMAN

Kate Gibson jumps up to spike the ball during Saturday's match against South Alabama. Ole Miss wins 3-1.

but senior Lexi Thompson managed to find kill No. 1,200 of her career, and her consistency drew a lot of attention away from Stroup.

"She is the type of player that you never have to worry about her type of play or

level of effort," McRoberts said. "It shows her longevity of her career in getting that record, and we are really proud for her. (Other coaches) already know she is an integral part of our offense and has been for the last three years. They will see she is a key contributor like she has been."

For Thompson, however, it is a "cool" accomplishment, but it was not what she set out to do coming into college.

"I think my family is more excited about it than I am," Thompson said. "It shows that I have had good teammates since the start of my career here. Volleyball is a team sport, and if you set individual goals, you aren't going to make it anywhere and you're not going to have good relationships with your teammates because your goal should be winning the point."

Libero Caroline Adams has also been a leader on the court this year as a junior, helping teammates achieve a common goal – winning.

"Last year, I was super quiet," Adams said. "My goal this year was to be more emotionally involved. I think it helps the team when we are down when someone comes jumping into the huddle giving us energy. I think we are naturally an emotional team, and it just adds fuel to the fire."

The Rebels hold onto a 9-4 record before heading into SEC play Friday with a home game against Auburn.

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Penalties, injuries overshadow big plays in 27-16 loss

JOSH GOLLIHAR
STAFF WRITER

After traveling just more than 2,000 miles across the country to Berkeley, California, the Rebels fell to the Cal Golden Bears by a final score of 27-16 in a unique Pac-12-after-dark matchup. A combination of penalties, injuries and a lack of sustained offense led to the Rebels' demise.

Shea Patterson and the Rebel offense came out firing on all cylinders early, but they could not put together consecutive scoring drives. A connection from Patterson to D.K. Metcalf for 42 yards setup a Gary Wunderlich field goal on the opening drive. But on the following drive, Patterson had a tipped pass intercepted. His answer when he got the ball back was a 72-yard touchdown pass to DaMarkus Lodge.

The Ole Miss offense, struggling to find a constant rhythm, repeated the sequence of a Patterson interception, followed by a long touchdown. Patterson's second touchdown of the first half was a 71-yard strike to Metcalf. The Rebels held onto a 16-7 lead over Cal at half-time.

The Rebel defense was a bright spot in the first half.



PHOTO BY: EMILY HOFFMAN

DaMarkus Lodge runs for a 72-yard touchdown during the game against the California Golden Bears on Saturday. California wins 27-16.

The missed tackles that plagued the defense in the first two games seemed to be solved. Led by DeMarquis Gates' six tackles and C.J. Moore's two interceptions, the Rebels limited the Golden Bears to 198 total yards in the first half.

However, the Rebels eventually settled back into their old habits.

Missed tackles became the norm once again when the Rebel defense was forced to be on the field for extended periods of time as Cal dominated time of possession through the remainder of the game. Cal went from having 72 yards on the ground in the first half to adding almost 100 more in the second.

After building a nine-point

lead in the first half, a completely different Rebel team emerged for the second half. Mental errors plagued both the offense and defense. The team committed 16 penalties for 113 yards, the big plays that led to points early on disappeared and Patterson's play was less than sharp. Patterson committed an intentional grounding foul and threw

a pick six at the end of the game, thwarting a chance to mount a comeback and leaving the Rebels shut out in the second half and out-gained by 70 yards. Head coach Matt Luke was not pleased with his team's performance.

"That is a tough loss," Luke said. "We really struggled offensively in the second half with turnovers and penalties."

The struggles for the Rebels were ugly but overshadowed by key injuries. On Shea Patterson's first interception, A.J. Brown was hit in the leg by a defender. Brown walked off the field of his own power, but he needed to have an X-ray. He was diagnosed with a bone bruise and did not return to the game. Kicker Gary Wunderlich suffered a pulled hamstring attempting an extra point that kept him out for the rest of the game, which led to a shanked field goal attempt by his walk-on freshman predecessor. The biggest loss may have been center Sean Rawlings, who left the game in the first half with an ankle injury. Rawlings' injury had a large effect on the game, but Luke does not want

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